

BLACK DIAMOND GOLD.

The Effect of the Recent Coal Shipments Now Being Felt.

MONEY POURING INTO COFFERS.

The Merchants, Storekeepers and Miners Are Prosperous.

ACTIVITY IS EXPECTED AT THE MINES.

FROM black to yellow, is an interesting transformation of colors in progress in the river coal industry. Many miles of boats and barges were shipped down the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys this week, and from this tidal wave of black diamonds a sort of return swell has now set in, pouring in upon Pittsburgh and vicinity a stream of dollars.

Before this swell subsides it will have left at least \$1,200,000 high and dry upon the banks of the Monongahela. At the Water street office of one of the oldest firms in the business it is estimated that \$8,000,000 comes back to Pittsburgh every year from Cincinnati, Louisville, New Orleans and other Southern cities in return for the coal we send them. As this exchange can only be made upon the basis of recurring freights, strangers will see at once that these great river-swells are not in the nature of winds that blow no good, and that Pittsburgh can, with good grace, weather any number of such storms as swooped down upon the country last week. Now the situation wears a changed face. If the rivers do not freeze up suddenly, plenty of empty craft will be back by the last of next week, and a season of great activity is promised at the mines.

Money Placed in General Circulation.

The million and a quarter of dollars which is flowing back to us does not go into the idle coffers of banks. It goes at once into circulation. The lower markets were cleaned out, and the demand was splendid when the Pittsburgh fair reached the down-river cities. A fairly good price is thus obtained, and with replenished purses, the mine owners up here will be able to maintain the present old rate of wages paid their miners. With the resumption of mining, the new money will go out in wages without delay. Storekeepers and merchants generally who have been carrying miners' families on credit over the season of idleness will be paid up, and that means renewed life and prosperity to whole towns. These same merchants will make payments to the wholesale houses in Pittsburgh, and in a variety of channels, will be the financial benefactors of the monster coal shipment of this week because apparent.

Coming nearer home, other forms of industry and enterprise are found to be quickening with the bounteous results of this unusually large return of gold in exchange for the black diamonds. An army of hostmen will come back to their homes here to receive from the offices of coal firms along Water street their precious envelopes. The masters, the pilots, the engineers and the boat carpenters live either in the city or along the Ohio from Woods' Run down to Beaver, and even the aristocratic village of Sewickley will feel financially good from the amount of cash the well-paid steamboat officers are prepared to spend upon their return from below. Deck hands, rousters, and even the cooks will contribute their wages to the general volume of business.

Big Sums Paid at the Locks. The movement of this vast quantity of coal transferred a big sum from the safes of the coal operators to the treasury of the Monongahela Slackwater Company. That corporation charges an average of, probably, \$12.60 for each barge of coal passed through its locks. These charges are different at each lock. For every 1,000 bushels of coal brought down the Monongahela the Pittsburgh owner pays \$2.25 for it at Lock No. 3; \$1.80 more for it at Lock No. 2; 30 cents more for it at Lock No. 1. It has mined his coal still farther up the river he pays \$2.75 at Lock No. 4, and so on the farther up the valley he goes. In the rush of tows at Locks Nos. 1 and 2 this week and last week the slackwater company is said to have earned thousands of dollars a day at these two dams alone. It was estimated that there were from 17,000,000 to 20,000,000 bushels of coal loaded on the rivers last week. Thousands of dollars are being paid to the owners of the boat stores owned by Second avenue. They provisioned the fleet of ponderous towboats. The larders of these vessels are filled without stint. The men to work with great tows of company have had dangerous and exposed labor before them. In consequence the boat stores, as a general thing, turn in big bills for the fleet gets away. They are paid promptly and without murmur.

Big Risks Run by the Shippers. "It was a tremendous risk we ran this fall," said a coal shipper. "Never in the history of the coal trade was there so much large craft loaded at this season of the year. Just think of it. Our firm alone had 75 boats lying in the river, all loaded ready for the shipment long before it came. Usually we wait for spring to utilize that size of craft and we generally filled them for New Orleans. But this year the dry weather prevented a rise for months, and as

producing and loading. If I don't do the same, my neighbor will get larger quantities into the lower markets, his returns will be greater and the improvements of his works might thus overreach our own. So we also go ahead mining and loading, ready to seize each frost at its foot, and float to the market below in eager competition with the firm across the street. It's the old, old story. You will find it in all lines of business, though, perhaps, it brings to the coal operators a larger proportion of anxiety and risk than it does to the staid old gentleman in the uptown counting room, who may go home and nap over his periodical without having upon his mind many acres of mined coal surging on the river at the complete mercy of the elements."

Steamers Block the Entrances Frequently. The truth of all this coal capitalist said was realized a little while later by the reporter, as he stood upon the river bank in Soho, watching steamers blocking up at the upper entrance to Lock No. 1, waiting for their opportunity to get below. The twin locks there are hardly adequate to the immense business that is furnished by the coal industry. Some years ago they were, but the coal trade has been growing out of all proportion to the measurement of the lock walls. The press of towboats above the dam amounts often to a blockade. It has not yet been broken up in order to get through, and this consumes time. By the confessions of the mine owner above quoted, competition compelled the firm alone to load 75 boats, which is decidedly unusual for this season. The result of that was larger tows brought to the crest of Lock No. 1. But the capacity of the locks had not been broken up in order to get through, and this consumes time. By the confessions of the mine owner above quoted, competition compelled the firm alone to load 75 boats, which is decidedly unusual for this season. The result of that was larger tows brought to the crest of Lock No. 1. But the capacity of the locks had not been broken up in order to get through, and this consumes time.

"Perhaps, though, if the policy of that coal merchant whom you interviewed were to be adopted, he would be no need of enlarging these locks," remarked a gentleman. "No, I think it is better to go on producing and mining, rather than curtail the trade; better to accept the weather as we find it; better to take the risks that are naturally consequent upon a business of this nature—better, because it is the natural expansion of the industry in consequence of healthy competition."

available craft became scarcer, and our neighbors went on loading, and our miners had to be provided with employment to keep them from starving—with all these things forcing us on, why, we just turned in and loaded all the boats we had as well as barges. "Recently I laid awake at nights thinking of what disastrous results would follow from that sudden rise in the South which we all feared so much. In the ordinary condition of things, when only barges are loaded, the breaking loose of a barge or two would be a small matter, even at headwaters. But let a fleet of those heavy boats let go above, and they would have spread destruction along the whole river. A boat load of coal sinking meant greater financial loss of course, than a barge load of Beaver, and even the aristocratic village of

LATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Competition Should Be Regulated. "If I had my way," continued the gentleman, "I would regulate competition that I could discharge all my business and say positively 'We will not ship an ounce of coal between the 1st of December and the 1st of February.' When we begin our estimates on a year's operations we invariably set down the probabilities of closed rivers and disadvantages from weather during December and January. If we would abide by those probabilities we could save ourselves a vast amount of risk and anxiety. Prior to December 1 I would load only a moderate amount of coal, so as to avoid choking out the harbors as we did this fall, and thus reduce the hazard we placed ourselves in by so doing. "But we can't regulate the business that way, it would seem to be concluded. "Competition is too rife. My neighbor goes on

know me by my work. Do you want to get well? Almost every body who is sick does a good many people, however, don't know how to go about it. They go around with one foot in the grave spending money in paying doctor's bills without relief. Dr. Burgoon's System Restorer, which sells at \$1 a bottle or six bottles for \$5, will positively cure seven out of ten of all the ailments that flesh is heir to, without any other medical attention whatever. Thousands of grateful patients testify to its efficacy in curing stomach and kidney troubles, rheumatism, neuralgia, sciatica, or biliousness in either sex; and diseases of the blood no matter how long standing. Sold by all Druggists. Cancer cured without knife or plaster with Burgoon's Botanical Cancer Cure. It is the great discovery of the age. I can show more CURED cases of cancer than all other advertising physicians. Tape Worms—I have removed 100 tape worms in the past 28 months. Hundreds are afflicted in this way who do not know it. The treatment is guaranteed harmless to the most delicate person—the infant or the adult. Call at my office, No. 47 Ohio street, Allegheny, and see living evidences of the good work done. Testimonials of representative citizens from all parts of the country are on file and open for inspection. Office hours from 8 A. M. to 9 P. M. Hours for consultation, 8 A. M. to 2 P. M. Sunday office hours and for consultation, 8 A. M. to 12 M. Write for literature, information and circular. Telephone No. 3598. DR. J. A. BURGOON, 47 Ohio st., Allegheny City, Pa.

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20 PER CENT OFF On all Seal Caps and Gloves to "Close" entire stock at RUBEN'S

The Tolstoy Turban And Half a Dozen Other Shapes. In view of the well known and near change in the firm we have concluded to dispose of our entire stock of Seal Caps and Gloves, as well as other Fur Caps, at the above reduction. This brings the goods down to less than cost of manufacture to-day—yet we bought them previous to the advance in seal fur. If you want a cap for yourself or to make a present, then do not delay. Come while the assortment is complete.

RUBEN, The Hatter and Furnisher, 421 and 423 SMITHFIELD STREET.

WE ARE PUSHING

ALASKA High Grades of Ladies' Fine Furs in Stock and Made to Order. Seal Scaques Renowned into the new Princess or Military Style. Redding of Seal Garments in English Seal Color a specialty. WILLIAM GRABOWSKY, MANUFACTURING FURRIER, 707 PENN AVE., PITTSBURGH.

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BEST \$1.00 SPECTACLES ON EARTH. Wear them and see again. as in YOUTH. CHESSMAN OPTICAL CO., 43 Federal St., Allegheny.

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KNOW ME BY MY WORK. Do you want to get well? Almost every body who is sick does a good many people, however, don't know how to go about it. They go around with one foot in the grave spending money in paying doctor's bills without relief. Dr. Burgoon's System Restorer, which sells at \$1 a bottle or six bottles for \$5, will positively cure seven out of ten of all the ailments that flesh is heir to, without any other medical attention whatever. Thousands of grateful patients testify to its efficacy in curing stomach and kidney troubles, rheumatism, neuralgia, sciatica, or biliousness in either sex; and diseases of the blood no matter how long standing. Sold by all Druggists. Cancer cured without knife or plaster with Burgoon's Botanical Cancer Cure. It is the great discovery of the age. I can show more CURED cases of cancer than all other advertising physicians. Tape Worms—I have removed 100 tape worms in the past 28 months. Hundreds are afflicted in this way who do not know it. The treatment is guaranteed harmless to the most delicate person—the infant or the adult. Call at my office, No. 47 Ohio street, Allegheny, and see living evidences of the good work done. Testimonials of representative citizens from all parts of the country are on file and open for inspection. Office hours from 8 A. M. to 9 P. M. Hours for consultation, 8 A. M. to 2 P. M. Sunday office hours and for consultation, 8 A. M. to 12 M. Write for literature, information and circular. Telephone No. 3598. DR. J. A. BURGOON, 47 Ohio st., Allegheny City, Pa.

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A PAIR OF RUBBERS! You'll need them now. Go to LAIRD'S SHOE STORES, THE BOSTON RUBBER SHOE CO.'S and THE BAY STATE RUBBER CO.'S Rubbers and Gum Boots

Are perfectly reliable and warranted. Fine light-weight, medium and heavy grades, all the latest styles, in stock.

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MEN'S FINE CLOTHING. Being the leading clothiers of Pittsburgh we can and do offer values that cannot possibly be equaled. Our present \$15 Suit and Overcoat Sale, to be continued for but a few days longer, is a notable instance. This sale gives you choice of thousands (more than the entire stock of any other local house) of fine, imported garments that were made up to be sold at \$20, \$22 and \$23. This, too, is the first case on record of any house offering such overwhelming values before New Year's.

KAUFMANN'S Holiday Opening. The great event, for which active preparations have been going on for months past, has come at last. To-morrow morning, when the doors of Kaufmann's Grand Depot will open, a sight of unequalled splendor and magnificence will reveal itself to the army of holiday shoppers that will respond to this announcement. A World's Fair of Novelties, in its truest sense! Presents for young and old, rich and poor—enough to make millions happy. The holiday spirit seems to have invaded and taken possession of every department, imbuing even the senses of visitors and buyers until one fairly imagines Christmas to be but a day off. Shrewd and thinking people who always make their purchases thus early, instead of waiting till the big holiday rush sets in, will appreciate this fact and turn out in force. People paying small deposits can have goods packed away for them until wanted. Those who have not yet decided what to buy should read the following list of presents now displayed in a most bewildering profusion. It may give them an idea:

SPECIAL FOR LADIES. Our late offerings in fur-trimmed Jackets have been and still are the talk of the town. This week, however we will excel all previous offers by offering for sale at that same old price of \$9.75. A beautiful and entirely new line of fur-trimmed Jackets, having full Shawl Collar and 4-inch-wide facing (all way down) of fine Astrakhan fur, Black Marten, Canadian Seal or Natural Opossum. These Jackets are made of heavy, all-wool Cheviots, in black, blue or tan, are half lined with silk, and are sold by other houses at \$12, \$13, \$14 and \$15. Your choice from all at \$9.75.